



This Right Homes duplex in Fremantle has a 9-star energy-efficiency rating. Pictures: Alister Jupp

Efficiency is right at home here

■ GARY WRIGHT
Right Homes

A focus on sustainability and a desire to achieve the best possible outcomes for its clients are the driving forces behind the success of Burswood-based Right Homes. Although the builder doesn't specialise in any single type of construction, or cater exclusively to any section of the market, sustainability and quality are definite priorities, according to director Gary Wright.

"When we started the company in 2006, we were not sure what we wanted to build in particular, but as we realised there was a better way to build homes for our clients, we have embraced these methods," Mr Wright said.

"We now produce quality homes that are energy and water-efficient, and very comfortable."

Mr Wright and his wife Anna, a co-director of the firm, were "sort of nudged into" starting up their company by friends impressed by their work.

"We now have a team of nine, including Anna and myself, and operate with 20 to 25 homes each year but, like many smaller companies, we have a measured growth," he said.

"Our challenge now is to really raise the bar with the type of homes we build and many of our clients are keen to enjoy the journey with us."

Most single and double-storey projects undertaken by Right Homes in the past 12 months achieved a minimum 8-star energy-efficiency rating. One project had three different construction methods and two different classes of building on the same lot — one in reverse brick veneer, one straw-bale home and two double-brick apartments, ranging from 8.5 to 10-star ratings.

"Everything we do is an individual

design to suit the client's needs and budget. We construct a lot of high-end homes but we also have a strong focus on affordable sustainable homes.

"Just because a client does not have the largest budget does not mean we cannot give them a solar-passive home."

Starting with good passive design ensured homes were comfortable for clients, suited their lifestyle and offered environmental benefits.

This involved allowing lots of natural light from the north, while protecting the interior from harsher elements to the east and west. Accessibility and indoor air quality were also of high importance and needed to be checked to ensure a safe and healthy home.

"Most of the homes we build are primarily brick as — unlike many other products — it has very good thermal mass. When insulated correctly, this can greatly add to the internal comfort of a home.

"We also use areas of reverse brick veneer to achieve high-end efficiency."

Mr Wright said demand for correctly designed and constructed homes was growing, with clients wanting elements in their home that actually worked.

"Many people are now able to see past the glitz and glamour of display homes and realise that functionality is of much more importance than how a home is presented for sale.

"As the cost of utilities is increasing across the board, people have to look further into ways of reducing their costs, bringing them closer to having a home designed and built to be comfortable from the onset."

Into the future, Mr Wright predicts the CSR Edmonds Odyssey air-transfer system will revolutionise the way air transfer is achieved in standard homes. "I can see a time soon where they will be a standard inclusion in all our homes."



This Right Homes upside-down design in Bayswater captures river and park views.



A two-storey design from Right Homes' Green Swing Project.